



# Municipal News Town of Smithfield

Volume 25

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1ST Quarter 2005

## CREATING A VISION FOR SMITHFIELD

In the year ahead, the future of the Town of Smithfield will take shape. Each of you will have an opportunity to participate – either by attending public meetings, hearings and forums, sending me an e-mail, sharing concerns over the phone with a commissioner or council member, completing a survey or participating in the Citizens Planning Academy - as we begin to update our Comprehensive Plan. Please let your voice be heard and play an active role in shaping your town's tomorrow.

As we begin looking at the Vision for Smithfield 2005 – 2025, the Town Council spent valuable time recently focusing on their near term strategic goals to accomplish over the next year and a half. Their adopted goals are listed in the next section below, and information on our first ever planning academy follows.

The Smithfield Planning Commission has begun working with The Cox Company of Charlottesville to review the existing Comprehensive Plan last adopted in 1999, and to develop a cash proffer policy for new development. The Commission and the Board of Historic & Architectural Review have also begun work with Frazier Associates of Staunton to update our adopted historic district design guidelines and to develop design guidelines for our entrance corridor overlay zoning districts which encompass each primary entrance into town.

All public meetings will be listed on the town's website: [www.smithfieldva.gov](http://www.smithfieldva.gov) and on our local government Charter Cable Channel 6. Formal public hearings and forums throughout the year will also be advertised in our local newspapers.

As I begin my tenth year of service as your manager here in Smithfield, I wish you and your family a very Happy New Year in Ham Town!

Peter M. Stephenson, AICP, ICMA-CM  
Town Manager  
[pstephenson@smithfieldva.gov](mailto:pstephenson@smithfieldva.gov)

# Smithfield Citizens Planning Academy

The Town of Smithfield is accepting applications from town property owners and residents to participate in our first ever Smithfield Citizens Planning Academy. The academy sessions will be held as follows:

## **Wed. March 9<sup>th</sup> - An Introduction to Community Planning**

This session will define planning, review how planning works in a democratic society, and review how local plans are developed and used by decision makers in the community.

## **Wed. March 16<sup>th</sup> – Legal Foundations and the Tools of Planning**

This session will review planning's legal foundations in Virginia and will provide participants with an overview of the four primary tools local governments such as Smithfield can use to implement its plan.

## **Wed. March 30<sup>th</sup> – Planning's Players and Smithfield Planning Issues**

This session will introduce the participants to decision makers involved in the planning process. These include the role played by staff, the Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Town Council and the court system. This session will also focus on the issues currently facing Smithfield. A planning scenario assignment will be given.

## **Wed. April 6<sup>th</sup> – Shaping Smithfield's Future Today**

This session will focus on the future and the role land use planning will play in guiding change in Smithfield. In addition to a graduation ceremony, class members will present the results of their assigned projects given during the third session.

**All sessions will be held at The Smithfield Center, 220 N. Church Street, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The academy will be directed by R. Michael Chandler of Chandler Planning consulting.** Mike is Professor Emeritus at Virginia Tech, and Past President of the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association. He provides certified training to planning commission members and zoning officials, and facilitation of strategic planning for municipalities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

There will be a limit of 20 participants based on a first come, first served basis. Additional appointments may be made by the Town Council. Academy graduates will also have the opportunity to play an important role in the update of the Smithfield Comprehensive Plan this year! Applications are due no later than Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. Drop off location for applications is Town Hall, 310 Institute Street. A \$25.00 registration fee is required and will cover the cost of all materials and refreshments.

For additional information, please contact William T. Hopkins, III, Director of Planning, Engineering & Public Works.

**Interested applicants, complete and return the information below:**

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## *Smithfield Citizens Planning Academy – Application Form*

I am a property owner or resident of the Town of Smithfield and I want to learn more about community planning and the future of my town.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Attached is my all inclusive registration fee of \$25.00 made payable to the Town of Smithfield. I understand that my payment will be refunded to me: A) If for some unforeseen reason I am unable to participate after enrolling; or B) When the maximum number of participants has been reached.

# **Smithfield Town Council 2005–2006 Strategic Goals**

## **GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

**Adopt cash proffer study guidelines** (July '05)

**Update Comprehensive Plan** (January '06)

- ◇ Develop Level of Service policies (traffic, utility impacts and emergency response times)
- ◇ Create new chapters on transportation, economic development and affordable housing
- ◇ Develop a phasing plan/time phased standards for new residential development construction
- ◇ Include various methods of citizen surveys and input

**Modify Zoning Ordinance & Subdivision Regulations** (July '06)

- ◇ Amend per updated Comprehensive Plan
- ◇ Develop new cluster development & open space standards
- ◇

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Refine Tourism goals and activities, working with IOW County** (January '06)

**Support our Jamestown 2007 Schoolhouse Museum project** (July '05)

**Develop new economic development strategies, working with IOW County for the following:** (January '06)

- New hotel recruitment
- Commercial business development /target market plan to recruit desired commercial uses
- Support/spin off business recruitment reflective of our economic base (meat packing industry)

**Complete significant portion of South Church Street improvements—extension of Main Street beautification project** (July '06)

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**Establish a town Speakers Bureau** (January '05)

**Begin Mayor's quarterly message to the community** (March '05)

**Conduct a Citizens Planning Academy** (April '05)

**Conduct a Smithfield Local Government Academy** (October '05)

**Conduct a Public Safety Academy** (January '06)

**Televis Town Council meetings on local cable channel** (July '06)

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS & PROGRAMS**

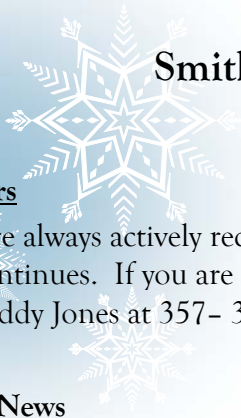
**Finalize Pinewood Heights relocation grant project** (March/July '05)

**Finalize Fire & EMS Response Time Study** (March/July '05)

**Develop illustrative concept plans (for use of vacant lot behind 315 Main Street) to present to Smithfield Foods, Inc.** (July '06)

**Proceed with site identification (July '05) and acquisition (July '06) for new fire station or future combined public safety facility**

**Complete public water system improvements and state withdrawal permit upgrades** (July '06)



## Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department News

### New Members

We are always actively recruiting new members. Our call volume continues to increase and the need for volunteers continues. If you are interested in becoming a part of our important community service, please contact Chief Buddy Jones at 357- 3231.

### Department News

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Jason Edwards, Nick Savage and Billy Chrisman to the position of Lieutenant. Also Tom Ivy is our newest Training Officer.

### IF BURNING MUST BE DONE—BE SAFE NOT SORRY Know the Forest Laws and Air Pollution Regulations Before Burning

#### **Burning Law in Brief:**

No burning until after 4:00 P.M. February 15 through April 30 of each year, if the fire is in or within 300 feet of woodland, brushland, or field containing dry grass of other inflammable material.

Fire shall not be left unattended if within 150 feet of woodland or dry fuel.

No new fires set or fuel added after midnight.

Law applies to campfires, warming fires, brush piles, household trash, stumps, fields of broomstraw and brush or anything capable of spreading fire.

The law provides for a penalty of up to \$500, plus payment of court cost and fire suppression cost if the fire escapes.

#### **Before Burning...Check These.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Is it calm?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Is it damp?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Is it between 4:00 P.M. and Midnight?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Is the burning to be done over 300 feet from inflammable material?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a cleared safety strip around the area to be burned?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Is the burning to be done against the wind?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Is there ample help available?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Can the fire be attended until it is dead out?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Are there fire fighting tools available?
10. \_\_\_\_\_ If conducting large burning operations, has fire dispatcher been notified?

**One No answer may cause you trouble.**

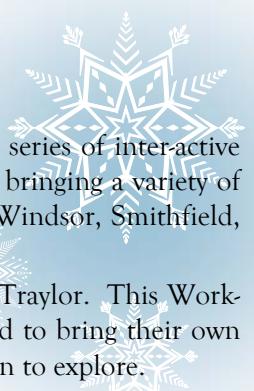
### **Maintenance Check List**

1. Test your smoke detector at least once a month by pressing the test button.
2. Replace weak or worn out batteries at once.
3. Never borrow smoke detector batteries for other uses.
4. Keep extra batteries on hand.
5. Charge batteries at least once a year.
6. Dust and vacuum smoke detectors at least twice a year.
7. Make sure smoke detectors are working when you return home after an extended absence.

**“Early detection of home fires is important to a family’s survival.”**

# Isle of Wight Museum Foundation

Bringing Activities to You



Searching for something interesting to do this winter? Start the New Year off by enjoying a series of interactive workshops with the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation. Offered FREE of charge, the Foundation is bringing a variety of topics to different areas of the county in an effort to reach out to everyone. Events will be held in Windsor, Smithfield, Carrollton, and Chuckatuck.

February topics will “View Photography from a Historic Angle” with Glenda Prince and Waverly Traylor. This Workshop will survey photography from the 1900’s to the modern digital age. Participants are encouraged to bring their own digital cameras for some hands-on experience and tips. Making a pin-hole camera also will be an option to explore.

February and March will feature cooking skills of by-gone days from fireplaces to modern ovens, with a wide range of long-forgotten kitchen gadgets on hand to explore. Unlike the wildlife and photography workshops, the cooking workshops will not be repeated in different areas of the county but will offer a different experience at each location. Windsor resident and historic re-enactor, Vince Petty, begins this series by showing off his 18th century culinary skills.

Lastly, in April, everyone is invited to the beach to collect seashells at the seashore of 3 million years past. Here is your chance to discover marine fossils which have been unearthed within the county.

Watch the newspaper for specific dates and times for these topics. Isle of Wight residents are encouraged to call the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation at 357-0999 or e-mail [IsleofWightMuseumFoundation@hotmail.com](mailto:IsleofWightMuseumFoundation@hotmail.com) for details and with additional suggestions for topics and speakers. The Foundation’s goal is to provide a venue for the interest and talents of residents and friends of Isle of Wight County and would like to hear from everyone!



## Community Calendar

### **February 7 (Mon) 6:00 p.m.**

Isle of Wight Museum Foundation invites you to take part in the “Aromas and Tastes of Another Era” with Vince Petty, rein-actor and historic foods way enthusiast. Pre-registration required for this hands-on hearth cooking experience. To be held at the courtesy of the Smithfield Inn.

### **February 12 (Sat) 10:00 a.m.**

Isle of Wight Museum foundation invites you to “View Photography from a Historic Angle” and contribute your own snapshots of architectural or rural aspect of our county. Teams will use a simple pin-hole camera or modern digital cameras to create a new historic record!

Free Event. Colonial Farm Credit Building.

Also Offered on February 19(Sat) 10:00 a.m.—Carrollton. And on February 26 (Sat) 10:00 a.m.—Smithfield Library

### **March 5 (Sat) 10:00 a.m.**

Isle of Wight Museum Foundation invites you to “Drop, roll and cut-out cookies” in the old fashion way, along with some modern methods. Discover some kitchen gadgets that were the newest in labor-saving devices from our past. Free experience at the Isle of Wight Extension Service Building.

### **March 19 (Sat) 10:00 a.m.**

Isle of Wight Museum Foundation presents “Baked Alaska”, a recipe combining history, geography, science and good taste! Children should bring along an adult to participate in this free event. Windsor Community Center.

### **April 2 (Sat) 10:00 a.m.**

Isle of Wight Museum Foundation invites you to “Collect Seashells by the Seashore” of 3 million years ago. Bring a small bucket and hand tools for marine fossil collecting. Free event—adults must accompany children. Meet at IWIP Road off Route 10 in Smithfield towards Chuckatuck.



# The Smithfield Center



## 2005 and 2006 Reservations at Smithfield Center

Smithfield Center is taking reservations for 2006 as well as 2005. If you are planning a wedding, party or special event, remember to book early since weekend dates book very fast. Contact Linda or Amy at (757)356-9939 or by email at [Linda@smithfieldcenter.com](mailto:Linda@smithfieldcenter.com).

### 2005 Bridal & Special Occasion Show

**Sunday, February 20, 2005** is the date for the 2005 Bridal and Special Occasion Show at the Smithfield Center in Smithfield, Virginia. Tropical Destinations is the theme for this year's show and what could be better than to think of warm, tropical breezes in the middle of a cold February. **This event is for everyone, not just brides.** Whether you are going to a party or planning a party, this is the event for you. This event will showcase all types of event professionals, who help make your event reception of party a memorable one. The fashion show will have an opportunity to view the beautifully decorated tables sponsored by various special event vendors. Then the guests will be seated and served lunch, while watching a spectacular fashion show.

Tickets will be \$10.00 (price includes admission and lunch) and \$8.00 in advance. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Smithfield Center. Call Amy at the Smithfield Center for more information (757) 356-9939.



### 2005 Smithfield Home and Garden Show

Is it spring yet! If you find yourself asking this question then you are ready for our **2005 Home and Garden Show at the Smithfield Center on March 11, 12, and 13.** Our featured speaker will be Art Wolk, garden writer and humorist. His new book Garden Lunacy will be available for purchase and Mr. Wolk will do two presentations. Our landscapers' center exhibit will feature Smithfield Gardens, Enchanted Forrest and Clark's Nursery. Our theme this year is the "Four Seasons in the Home and Garden". There are many new vendors who will be selling everything from herbs to botanical etchings, garden tools, stained glass and much more. Also, the Kiwanis Club of Smithfield will be selling barbecue in the parking lot.

Schedule  
Friday, March 11  
1 P.M.—7 P.M.  
Saturday, March 12  
10 A.M.—6 P.M.  
Sunday, March 13  
Noon—4 P.M.

**Tickets will be available at the Smithfield Center starting Tuesday, February 22nd.** Advanced tickets \$5.00 per—one day and \$10.00 for the three-day show. Tickets at the door will be \$7.00 per—one day and \$12.00 for the three-day show. **For more information call the Smithfield Center at (757) 356-9939.**

## New Employees Spotlight

This quarter the Smithfield Town Hall family spotlight is on three of our newest employees. First is **Mr. Darryle Warren**. Darryle is in our Public Works Department. His job duties include maintaining various pump stations installing water meters, water and sewer lines and assisting with the up keep of the towns roadways. Darryle has been a resident of Smithfield for 18 years or more. He and his wife Rhonda have 2 daughters Darianne (10) and De'ja' (3) and a son Darryle Jr. (8). While not at work Darryle enjoys fishing, hunting, playing basketball and football, listening to Jazz and just spending time with his family. "I enjoy working for the town and the group of guys that keep me striving to work as hard as they do" says Darryle. He would also like to thank Joe, Kenny, "Poppa John" and all his supervisors for giving him a chance.



Next our spotlight is on **Ms. Melissa Steckenfinger**. Melissa has been employed by the town as a bookkeeper in the Treasurers office for the last three months. Melissa was a resident of Portsmouth for eleven years before moving to Northern Suffolk two years ago. She is currently attending TCC and will graduate in August 2005 with an Associates in Business Administration.



Our third spotlight is on **Officer Jim Tragesser**. Jim has been employed by the town Police Department since August 2004. Jim was born and raised in Tipton, Indiana. He joined the Navy in September 1994 and was transferred to the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) in March 1995. He has lived in the Hampton Roads area since then and has lived in the town since October 2004. Jim began his law enforcement career with the Portsmouth Police Department in July 2002 and graduated the Hampton Roads Regional Academy in October 2002. Currently Jim is not married but has been with his girlfriend Crystal for the last 4 years. My hobbies are "arresting criminals, but since I get paid for that I guess that is not a hobby so my real hobbies are being outdoors and enjoying a variety of outdoor activities," says Jim.



### Time is Running Out

**Vehicle License Decals** are due on **February 15** of each year. The cost is \$20.00 per vehicle unless you are military **AND** your home of record is **NOT** Virginia, in which case the fee is \$3.00. You must have a current LES to show your home of record. If your personal property taxes are current, you will receive a vehicle license certificate in the mail that you must return with payment in order to receive your decals. The certificate must also be completed and signed by the taxpayer to indicate whether the vehicle was mainly used for business or personal travel. This certification must be completed if the taxpayer is to qualify for state personal property tax relief. If your personal property taxes are delinquent, you will not receive a mailer and you must make payment on your outstanding taxes before you can purchase a decal. If you are a new resident and have not yet been billed for personal property taxes, you will not receive your decal certificate in the mail. You will need to bring a current registration for each vehicle to the Town Treasurer's office in order to purchase a decal. If you move into the Town after the deadline date, you will still need to purchase a decal within 10 days of garaging the vehicle in the Town limits. Thank You!

Ellen Minga, Treasurer

Town of Smithfield  
P.O. Box 246  
Smithfield, VA 23431

**Important Dates to Remember**

(All Town meetings are held at 220 North Church Street at the Smithfield Center)

1st Tuesday—Town Council Meeting—7:30 p.m.

2nd Tuesday—Planning Commission—7:30 p.m.

3rd Tuesday—6:30 p.m. Board of Zoning appeals and 7:30 p.m. Board of Historic & Architectural Review

Last Monday and Tuesday of each Month—Town council Committee Meetings 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00 p.m. will be held at the Smithfield Center, Suites C & D. Stay tuned to Smithfield Channel 6 for any meeting changes and for important informational updates. **Also click on the Smithfield Channel 6 link on the town's web-site: [www.smithfieldva.gov](http://www.smithfieldva.gov) to see more information.**

**Holidays—Town Offices Closed**

**February 21st—Presidents Day**

**Town Council Members**

James B. Chapman, Mayor  
Daniel L Smith, Vice Mayor  
Kaye H. Brown  
Harry G. Dashiell, Jr.  
Wendy B. Dean  
David M. Hare  
Tom R. Ivy

**Planning Commission Members**

Daniel L. Smith, Chairman  
Lee E. Winslett, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Herb Bevan  
James B. Brown  
Delores Cahoon  
Thomas F. Hearn  
Virginia F. Smith